

Nursing Voice

June 1988

*"Resolve to be
tender with the
young, compas-
sionate with the
aged, sympathetic
with the striving,
and tolerant with
the weak and wrong.
Sometime in your
life you will have
been all of these."*

1980 class motto

The Allentown Hospital School of Nursing 1899-1988



The Allentown
Hospital—
Lehigh Valley
Hospital Center

A HealthEast Hospital

The Allentown Hospital
17th & Chew Streets
Allentown, PA 18102

Legacy of Leadership

From The Director's Desk

Saying goodbye is never easy. I have been associated with The Allentown Hospital School of Nursing for over 40 years. The school has become a vital part of me. I have seen its rigors as a student, contributed to its excellence as both an instructor and coordinator, and guided its final years as the director.

Reaching back to my student years, I share with the 1988 graduates an intimate understanding of diploma education. Our school has provided a fertile environment for growth. As we lived together, we grew emotionally cohesive and spiritually dedicated to serving the sick. With the assistance of the faculty, we grew to be intellectual professionals eager for the challenges of the future. The lifelong bonds of friendship, shared laughter and tears and exhausting work are memorable experiences and sources of ongoing satisfaction.

As an instructor and coordinator, I participated in fashioning the nurturing environment that I remembered from student years. I found myself among generations of nurse educators, the earliest of whom founded one of the first schools in America. Our goal was always to provide current theory and practical clinical skills. We passed to each new student the tools necessary to practice nursing.

We were ably assisted by a myriad of guest speakers, each with a special perspective. They were dedicated physicians, nurses, and health care profes-



sionals who gave unselfishly of their time and expertise. We remember with gratitude the enrichment and motivation of their lectures.

My long relationship with the school began to reach fruition in 1975 when I was appointed director. I have seen, during the past 13 years, a continuing commitment to high quality education. The exceptional caliber of our faculty and students resulted in formal recognition for exemplary performance by the Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing in July, 1987.

As commencement drew near, I felt a great sense of accomplishment. The 3,705 nurses who have graduated in similar ceremonies throughout the years have set a high standard of professional achievement for the '88 graduates. True to tradition, the new nurses are well equipped to meet the standard and continue to develop the legacy of The Allentown Hospital School of Nursing. Through the continuation of this legacy, I see the last commencement not only as an ending, but also as a beginning of numerous new stories of excellence.

• Josephine M. Ritz, R.N.
School of Nursing

Faith and hard work were the foundation on which the school was built, starting with Annie B. Gibson and Clara V. Haring. As head nurses, they were not only responsible for the school, but for the operation of the hospital and supervision of the hospital employees, too.

During Alma Viehdorfer's tenure, the school's enrollment expanded to the point that insufficient housing became a problem. In 1915, the Edward Harvey Memorial Nurses' College was opened as the nurses' residence and center for the education program.

The ability of the students to achieve their goals was enhanced by the progressive attitude of Anna R. Kay during the 1930s. She instituted the role of staff nurse, allowing students more time to study and relax. Previously, patients were cared for by the head nurses and student nurses.

E. Louise Grant (1936-1938) reduced the students' workday to eight hours. She reflected recently on her first meeting with the faculty and the head nurses: "I was impressed with the enthusiasm...and their hopes for continued educational opportunity and better preparation for their position and for those they served."

During May L. Crouch's administration, World War II taxed the quality of the program and the integrity of the faculty. There was a sharp increase in the number of students admitted and the Cadet Nurse Corps Program was successfully implemented.

In 1945, a five-year nursing program was instituted. Students had the option to earn a bachelor of science degree in cooperative nursing from Cedar Crest College and a diploma (please turn to page 8)

"Not finished, just begun."

- Class of 1944

Looking Back, Looking Ahead

The Allentown Hospital School of Nursing Alumnae Association was founded Sept. 16, 1903 by seven charter members. The first officers were: Elizabeth Kratz, president and a member of the first graduating class; Jennie Mitchell, vice president; Amy Otto, secretary; and Mabel Brown, treasurer.

The first meeting was held on Oct. 12, 1903 in the temporary nurses' home at 1611 Chew Street. The purposes of the association was recorded as "...the advancement of the nursing profession. And by active cooperation to foster the spirit of loyalty among nurses and the cultivation of union and good fellowship."

As the years passed, the alumni continued to hold regularly scheduled meetings which featured educational programs and social events. Initially, members presented papers on current nursing topics. Later, guest speakers were invited.

The first homecoming day was held in May 1935 at the nurses' residence. Robert L. Schaeffer, M.D., reminisced about the hospital and its nurses. The program also included faculty demonstrations of nasal catheter suction apparatus, alcohol sponges, and turpentine stipes. A tour of the hospital followed.

The well-attended annual luncheon replaced homecoming day in 1954. Today, the annual luncheon is an occasion to recognize lifetime members; to award the 50-year gold pins; and most importantly, to renew old friendships and to keep alive the camaraderie among the 900 active members.



Uniforms reflect school's proud history

Since its inception, the Alumnae Association has made numerous contributions to the hospital, school and nurses' residence. The association has consistently provided funds to enable members to attend professional nursing organization conventions and continues to support the Nurses' Week celebration.

It is hoped that the association will continue to foster fellowship and cohesiveness among the graduates. The newsletter, which has been published for better than 40 years, will continue. *Nursing*

Voice, the nursing newsletter, will begin featuring a new column, "AHSN Alumni Corner."

Many other ideas are being discussed, each with the primary goal of keeping alive the spirit and high standards embodied in The Allentown Hospital School of Nursing.

- Linda Sterner, R.N.
School of Nursing
- Susan Steward, R.N.
Nursing Education
School of Nursing

Alma Mater

Our Alma Mater, to Thee we sing;
Our School of Nursing, praises we bring;
Power to aid, through faith in God,
Angels of mercy, may we be endowed.

Our Alma Mater, to Thee we sing:
With glorious Tribute, our voices ring,
Memories of Thee, to hearts so true,
O Alma Mater, we all sing to you.

- Edith Rodgers Moyer, R.N.
Class of 1951

"A life we spend for others is a life not spent in vain."

- Class of 1921

The Allentown Hospital School

Through The Decades . . . A Proud History

THE FIRST DECADE: 1900s

In November 1899, six months after the opening of The Allentown Hospital, The Allentown Hospital School of Nursing was formally organized with an enrollment of four female students. Students were accepted into the two-year program after satisfactorily completing examinations in reading, spelling, composition and mathematics.

Following a two-month probation period, the students wore long-sleeved, ankle-length pink and white striped uniforms, black shoes and stockings. They resided in the hospital and received a monthly stipend of \$5, room, board, books and uniforms.

The curriculum included surgical nursing, hygiene of sanitation, materia medica, bacteriology, maternity and general nursing. The classes were taught by the head nurse and physicians.

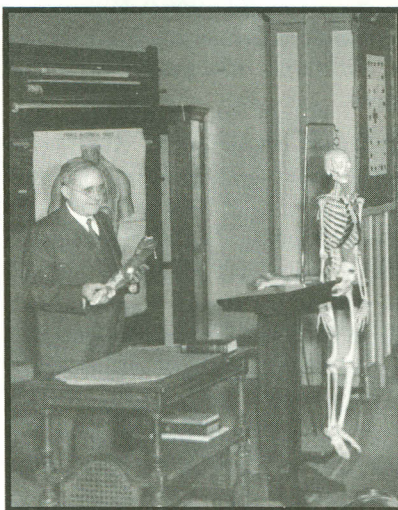
Service was of prime importance. Classes and study time were in addition to 12 hours of duty.

Three students graduated in June 1901. They rode to the ceremonies at the Lyric Theatre, now Symphony Hall, in the town's best white-lined bridal coach drawn by two horses.

They returned to the hospital for a reception and dinner. Later that evening, they resumed their tour of duty in student uniforms.

Very quickly the need for additional bed space in the hospital was recognized. The Mosser Wing, completed in 1902, provided 45 additional beds, and more accommodations for student nurses.

By 1907, it was necessary to provide more beds and improve the physical plant of the hospital. Temporary quarters for nurses were provided at 1611 Chew Street.



Dr. Schaeffer lectures students.

THE SECOND DECADE: 1910s

The east wing of the hospital was built in 1910. The generosity of Judge Edward Harvey provided for the construction of the Nurses' College, which was dedicated by former President Taft in 1915.

The nursing program changed to a three-year program.

This resulted in the absence of a graduating class in 1914.

The nurse's cap changed from organdy to a starched cotton and the uniform dress was now blue and white stripes.

At least 25 of the 161 graduates served in the Armed Forces and Red Cross during World War I. The school was first accredited by the Pennsylvania Department of Public Instruction in 1913. Many graduates earned a state board pin upon successfully passing the State Board Examinations.

THE THIRD DECADE: 1920s

The hospital was facing ever increasing pressure to meet the needs of the community. This was achieved through construction of X-ray and laboratory facilities, an operating room, cafeteria, the west wing, and enclosure of the fourth floor, east wing.

In The Allentown Hospital School of Nursing, class size peaked at 29 and classes were admitted twice a year. During the school's first 30 years, the total number of graduates reached 368, including the first male nurse.

An elective four-month psychiatric affiliation was begun at the Homeopathic State Hospital, currently known as Allentown State Hospital. Students choosing to participate were given a monthly stipend of \$20.

The '20s introduced a smaller school pin, class plays,

"I shall pass through this world but once. Any good therefore that I can do or any kindness that I can show to any human being, let me do it now. Let me not defer or neglect it for I shall not pass this way again." - Class of 1988

of Nursing — Through The Years



Members of the First Graduating Class

yearbooks, class rings and commencement exercises at Allentown High School. Students were allowed to wear oxfords during warm weather and uniforms now featured short sleeves and the length was reduced to mid-calf.

THE FOURTH DECADE: 1930s

Students continued to be admitted twice a year and came from surrounding states and as far away as South Carolina. The number in each class ranged from 22 to 38 students.

The curriculum continued to expand and included such subjects as massage, bandaging and splinting, and private duty nursing. In 1937, an elective affiliation with the Visiting Nurses' Association of Easton was added.

A typical student day

started at 6:20 a.m. with compulsory chapel services. A tour of duty followed from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. At 9 p.m. there was another compulsory chapel service, and at 10:30 p.m. students had to be in their rooms with lights out.

Students did participate in basketball, swimming, tennis and glee club. Social events included



Holiday Tradition

holiday parties, dances, and the class play. There was no elevator and only one telephone in the residence.

Graduation awards continued and the prizes included honor pins, a nurses' pocket instrument set and gold currency.

THE FIFTH DECADE: 1940s

The entrance fee was increased to \$125 from the original deposit fee of \$20. An estimated cost range for the entire three years was \$350 to \$400.

After the preclinical period of six months, clinical experience and class time totaled 48 hours per week.

The classes, ranging in size from 33 to 69 students, were allowed to wear white shoes and stockings for the entire program.

Volleyball, archery and bowling were popular social activities. Special events included the enjoyable Christmas Eve carolling through the hospital and many dances.

Several options became available to the students since the country had entered World War II. Some students joined the Army or Navy Nurse Corps while attending school.

The federally funded Cadet Nurse Corps was another option, which meant that the last six months of training could be spent on an Indian reservation, in public health nursing or at a veterans' hospital. The Corps paid tuition and provided uniforms. After graduation, if the war continued, the student became a lieutenant in the Army or Navy.

"To do our best, and know that it is good." - Class of 1943

THE SIXTH DECADE: 1950s

The class size ranged from 36-76 students, a constant number for the remainder of the school's history. Only one class was admitted each year in August.

Curriculum changes included the addition of several new courses such as professional adjustments and principles of nursing. The clinical experience and class time was now reduced to 44 hours per week.

Social activities included bridge, homemaking, Christian Fellowship Association and the publication of the school newspaper, *The Lamplighter*.

THE SEVENTH DECADE: 1960s

In 1961, tuition practically doubled to \$600. Tuition continued to include uniforms, room, board, meals, medical insurance and books.

During the school year 1959-60, the school began an affiliation with Muhlenberg College, which continued to the closing of The Allentown Hospital School of Nursing. Initially, courses taken at "Berg" included English, psychology, chemistry, anatomy and physiology. Muhlenberg memories include the long walk in all kinds of weather, lab disasters, hourlies, fetal pigs, dinks, bag lunches and fraternities.

In the clinical setting, coronary care, intensive care, and code blues began. The psychiatric affiliation at Allentown State Hospital ended in 1967 and students obtained this experience on the hospital's psychiatric unit.

The gray probie uniform was phased out and the green and white striped uniform with bib



Basketball Team

and apron was worn by all. Chevron stripes distinguished class level.

A white perma-starched cap was introduced. In the '60s, students began receiving their caps shortly after entry. This was a result of the school ending the probationary phase.

Students saw required daily chapel services change to a twice-a-month convocation. Married applicants were considered for admission. Opening doors for all superiors and rising for the en-

trance of instructors, physicians and supervisors ended with the '60s.

Activities included the big-little sister picnic, lawn fete, dances, parties, chorus, basketball, cheerleading, and serving on the staff of the yearbook, *Servantes*, or the renamed school newspaper, *Starch & Stripes*. The basketball teams captured several area #2 championships and the 1964-65 team became state champions.

THE EIGHTH DECADE: 1970s

Tuition in the '70s increased to \$3,690, plus room fee, uniforms and books. Students no longer had to live in the residence.

The school was enriched monetarily in 1973 upon receipt of the Helene Fuld Health Trust. Over the years, nearly a quarter million dollars in grants have been awarded the school.

With increased admissions of male students, a white "Ben Casey" shirt with green and white pin stripe trim was introduced. In



Senior Cadet Corps - Class of 1945

*"The woods are lovely, dark and deep, but I have promises to keep,
and miles to go before I sleep."*

- Class of 1964

1977, the male uniform became green and white pin stripe with a short white jacket. A green and white pin stripe A-line dress and pants suit uniform was introduced for female students.

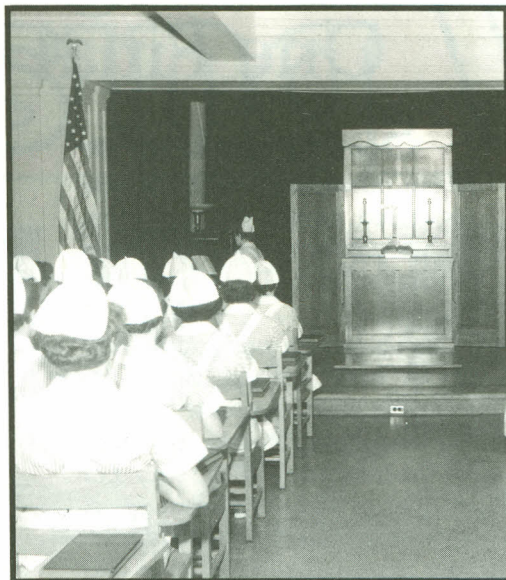
A conceptual approach to teaching was implemented, replacing the previous systems teaching method. Also, clinical experiences included community health-related activities. Several other hospitals and community services were utilized, including the newly opened Allentown and Sacred Heart Hospital Center.

A stroke unit was introduced at the hospital and remained for several years. Also, renal care and the dialysis unit were started.

Activities remained much the same, except basketball ended and the student newspaper was now called the *Chevron Stripe*. A talent show was started and much time was spent around the new color television set.

THE NINTH DECADE: 1980s

The curriculum was con-



Pause for Reflection

tinuously expanded to meet current professional nursing needs. To reach the clinical experiences, students were "bussed" in the school van.

Tuition rose to \$7,772 exclusive of meals, books and uniforms.

Students wore a white uniform with a green panel apron. Green stripes were worn on the cap to signify class year.

Additions to student activities included a skit night, volleyball team and the American

Heart Association Youth Group. Trophies were displayed in the school lobby for the volleyball championships in 1981, 1982 and 1983.

The single most significant event of the '80s was the decision to close The Allentown Hospital School of Nursing, upon graduation of the 1988 class.

Thus, ends the 89-year history of our beloved school. The closing of the school is certainly a sad event, especially for its graduates.

In conclusion, Nanci Willis Rinehart, writing in *Nursing Forum* XX:3, states in her article, "Eulogy for a Diploma Nursing School:"

"You were so much more than a school of nursing. You were mother and father to those students from far away. You provided guidance not only during class and clinical times, but 24-hours-a-day. You were a safe haven from disastrous blind dates; you were the all-powerful censor of weekend trips away from the dorm; you were financial counselor, and provider of friends who will never be forgotten. Although you protected, you also invaded. You were the source of stress that produced ulcers in many of your graduates. You were hate; you were love; you were looked to for support and turned away from after graduation ...Old friend, you gave your graduates much to remember. May you be remembered with warm nostalgia rather than bitter resentment. May your graduates learn and grow ...may you never be forgotten."

- Kay Fenstermaker, R.N.
Nursing Administration
- Janis Kleckner, R.N.
Nursing Pool
- LaRue Reppert, R.N.
School of Nursing
- Betty van Hovenberg, R.N.
Alumnae Association



Students in the '80s were 'bussed' in the school van.

"Enter to learn, leave to serve." - Class of 1950

Nursing Voice

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A special thank you to all AHSN alumni and hospital employees for their assistance.

One Final Goodbye

Some 33 months ago we began our education to become registered nurses. As freshmen, we were informed of the closing of our school. This frightened many of us.

Now, as our graduation draws near, the closing of the school is an even greater reality. The faculty are closing their files for the last time and the sound of student activity is almost gone. This makes us feel sad. We are sure the instructors, alumni and hospital employees share our feelings.

As the doors close, we, the Class of 1988, join previous classes in bidding a fond farewell to The Allentown Hospital School of Nursing.



• Lisa Teti
President, Class of 1988

Legacy (from page 2)

from The Allentown Hospital School of Nursing.

As hospital admissions and enrollment in the school steadily increased in the late 1940s, the positions of director of nursing and director of nursing education were created. The first nurses to serve in these posts were Ethlyn L. Eichel and Adele M. Miller, respectively. Adele M. Miller (1948-1966) notes "The outstanding achievement of the graduates of the school is indicative of its success."

In subsequent years, directors

of the school have continued to maintain a leadership role in providing quality education. Each of these directors has special comments to share about her tenure:

Laura Baughn (1959-1968) remembers the "willingness and responsibility manifested by the students ...and receiving full N.L.N. accreditation."

Anne O. Winkler (1968-1974) comments, "I continued to see the high caliber of grads who were completing the program and the commitment of the faculty and

administration."

Virginia M. McIlroy (1974) writes "... (the school will) survive through the compassionate and knowledgeable care and leadership of you."

Each of these special leaders has given her own specific gift to maintain a tradition of faith, integrity, ability and achievement.

- Margaret McDonnell, R.N.
Nursing Education
Friends of Nursing
- Betty van Hoevenberg, R.N.
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